1: Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1875 AV1 Kashmir AV1

CHAPTER V.

VARIOUS PLACES IN THE OUTER HILLS.

EAST OF THE CHINÁB — WEST OF THE CHINÁB.

THE plain at the foot of the hills, being for the most part capable of cultivation and in great part already cultivated, is thickly peopled; everywhere populous villages are to be found. But when we are once on the hills themselves we meet with villages rarely, and these but small; scattered hamlets and scattered houses denote how scarce is land that can be made fit for tilling; sometimes in little nooks and sometimes on steep hill-sides are terraced patches of ground, whose owners either cultivate them from the nearest village, or have made their solitary home close by. In the dúns, however, there are wider spreads of cultivated ground, though separated from one another by dividing ravines.

A village in these parts is a collection of low huts with flat tops, mud-walled, mud-floored, and mud-roofed. The floor and walls are neatly smeared with a mixture of cow-dung and straw. The roofs are timbered either with wood of one of the acacias or with pine. They are supported by one or more pillars, which are capped with a cross-piece some feet in length, often ornamented with carving, that makes a wide capital beneath the beam.

There is no light in the rooms but what may come in at the opened door, or through the chinks of it when closed, such a complete shutting out of the air being equally useful in the very hot and in the cold weather. The substance of the hut is a very bad conductor of heat, and this character tends to keep the interior of an equable temperature. I have often been glad to retreat to such a place from the scorching sun that a tent is but a poor protection against.

In front of the cottage is a level and smooth space, nicely